

SAN LUIS VALLEY PEACE OFFICER OF 1999, GEORGE DINGFELDER

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 2, 2000

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to congratulate the San Luis Valley Peace Officer of 1999.

Officer George Dingfelder, based in Alamosa, Colorado, has won this distinguished award due to his high standard of professionalism and outstanding commitment to his field. George has made it a personal pledge to fight drunk driving and drug use in the San Luis Valley. George has made several contacts with drunk drivers and drug traffickers. He has recorded more than 500 drunk driving arrests and confiscated several hundred pounds of marijuana in his five year career. George was honored by Mothers Against Drunk Driving in 1998 for his efforts stopping drivers from being on the road while intoxicated.

George is also a local hero. He and his wife, Stephanie, saved a young boy when his life was threaten by a leopard at the Cheyenne Mountain Zoo. The leopard attacked the boy through a fence, but George and Stephanie were successful at fending off the rather large cat. As a result of their bravery, George

and Stephanie were awarded Colorado's Life Saving Award by Colorado Governor Bill Owens.

It is with this, Mr. Speaker, that I would like to offer this tribute to Officer George Dingfelder for his outstanding bravery and commitment to uphold the law. He has truly made a difference in the San Luis Valley.

**HONORING ROBERT H. MILLER, A
TRUE AMERICAN HERO**

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Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to pause and recognize the life of a true American Hero. Robert Miller, who was a World War II veteran, passed away on January 12, 2000. He was 75 years old.

Bob served in the United States Armed Forces during one of the most infamous days in history. On June 6, 1944, Bob made it up only 15 feet on Omaha Beach before a sniper's bullet severed his spine. He was only 20 years old, and he would never walk again.

Bob received the Purple Heart and his unit, B Company of the 149th Combat Engineers, was awarded a presidential unit citation and the French Croix De Guerre.

After returning to the United States to recover from his injuries, Bob met his future bride, Pat Korber. They were married in 1950.

Bob attended the Kansas City Art Institute and earned a degree in commercial design. He worked for Goldblatt Tool Company until his retirement in 1978.

Bob and Pat moved to Pueblo, Colorado in 1980.

A very patriotic man, Bob never missed an opportunity to fly the flag or to visit with old military friends. In 1999, Bob drove to Des Moines, Iowa for a reunion. He knew no limits when it came to serving his country or staying in contact with those who had served with him. Bob was also in charge of a project to make a memorial to their military unit more conspicuous. The Air Force even flew a piece of granite for them to France.

Bob also liked to play wheelchair basketball. In 1973, he was one of the first people inducted into the National Wheelchair Basketball Hall of Fame. He served as the National Wheelchair Basketball Association's first president.

Bob was very involved in his community and his parish, Our Lady of the Meadows.

It is with this, Mr. Speaker, that I would like to offer tribute to Bob Miller. He was a man that will be missed by his community and everyone who knew him. He was a great American who deserves our highest praise and regard.